

I claim:

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1. A treatment method comprising treating an arthritis affected patient in need of such treatment with an effective tissue inflammation ameliorative amount of a steroid selected from  $\Delta 5$ -androstene- $3\beta$ -ol-7,17-dione and metabolizable precursors thereof incapable of being appreciably metabolized to androgens, estrogens or dehydroepiandrosterone.
  2. The treatment method of claim 1 wherein the method comprises treating an arthritis affected patient with an effective amount of a tissue inflammation ameliorative amount of a steroid selected from  $\Delta 5$ -androstene- $3\beta$ -ol-7,17-dione and  $\Delta 5$ -androstene- $3\beta$ -acetoxy-7,17-dione.
  3. The treatment method of claim 1 or 2 wherein the method of treating an arthritis affected patient comprises treating an arthritis affected human patient.
  4. The treatment method of claim 3 wherein the method of treating an arthritis affected human patient comprises treating a human patient afflicted with osteoarthritis.
  5. The treatment method of claim 3 wherein the method of treating an arthritis affected human patient comprises treating a human patient afflicted with fibromyalgia.
  6. The treatment method of claim 3 wherein the method of treating an arthritis affected human patient comprises treating a human patient afflicted with rheumatoid arthritis.
  7. The treatment method of claim 3 wherein the method of treating an arthritis affected human patient comprises treating an arthritis affected patient afflicted with arthritis-related tissue inflammation.

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8. The treatment method of claim 3 wherein the method of treating an arthritis affected human patient comprises treating a human patient diagnosed with osteoarthritis.
9. The treatment method of claim 3 wherein the method of treating an arthritis affected human patient comprises treating a human patient diagnosed with fibromyalgia.
10. The treatment method of claim 3 wherein the method of treating an arthritis affected human patient comprises treating a human patient diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis.
11. The treatment method of claim 3 wherein the method of treating an arthritis affected human patient comprises treating an arthritis affected patient diagnosed with arthritis-related tissue inflammation.
12. A treatment method comprising administering an effective arthritis-related tissue inflammation preventative amount of a steroid selected from  $\Delta^5$ -androstene- $3\beta$ -ol-7,17-dione and metabolizable precursors thereof incapable of being appreciably metabolized to androgens, estrogens or dehydroepiandrosterone to a patient susceptible to arthritis-related tissue inflammation.
13. The treatment method of claim 12 wherein the method comprises treating a patient susceptible to arthritis-related tissue inflammation with an effective arthritis-related tissue inflammation preventative amount of a steroid selected from  $\Delta^5$ -androstene- $3\beta$ -ol-7,17-dione and  $\Delta^5$ -androstene- $3\beta$ -acetoxy-7,17-dione.

14. The treatment method of claim 12 or 13 wherein the method of treating a patient susceptible to arthritis-related tissue inflammation comprises treating a human patient susceptible to arthritis-related tissue inflammation.
15. The treatment method of claim 14 wherein the method of treating a patient susceptible to arthritis-related tissue inflammation comprises treating a human patient afflicted with osteoarthritis.
16. The treatment method of claim 14 wherein the method of treating a patient susceptible to arthritis-related tissue inflammation comprises treating a human patient afflicted with fibromyalgia.
17. The treatment method of claim 14 wherein the method of treating a patient susceptible to arthritis-related tissue inflammation comprises treating a human patient afflicted with rheumatoid arthritis.
18. The treatment method of claim 14 wherein the method of treating a patient susceptible to arthritis-related tissue inflammation comprises treating a human patient diagnosed with osteoarthritis.
19. The treatment method of claim 14 wherein the method of treating a patient susceptible to arthritis-related tissue inflammation comprises treating a human patient diagnosed with fibromyalgia.
20. The treatment method of claim 14 wherein the method of treating a patient susceptible to arthritis-related tissue inflammation comprises treating a human patient diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis.
21. The treatment method of claim 14 wherein the method of treating an arthritis affected human patient comprises treating a human patient diagnosed with osteoarthritis.

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